

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, a sum of Rs. 20,000 has been provided by the Bihar Government for gratuitous relief for the sort of cases mentioned by my hon. friend.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know, Sir, what steps are being taken by Government to prevent recurrence of such hail storms?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I leave it to the hon. Member to suggest remedies.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

NEW RAILWAY LINES IN ORISSA

*1139. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether new railway lines are proposed to be constructed from Jagatpur to Kendrapara and from Berhampore to Russelkonda in the State of Orissa; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will these two projects be taken up in the next three years?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise

NEW RAILWAY LINES IN PUNJAB

*1146. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to connect Mukerian to Hoshiarpur and Amritsar to Ferozepore by constructing new railway lines;

(b) whether any representation has been received in this connection; and

(c) if so, the time by which the proposals will materialise?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No

(b) Yes.

(c) These will have to await consideration till projects which have been accorded higher priority have been dealt with. It is regretted that it is not possible to indicate now if and when these two proposals will be progressed further.

TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS FOR SISWA-BAZAAR (U. P.)

*1147. **Shri H. S. Prasad:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at Siswa-Bazaar in Gorakhpur District of Uttar Pradesh, many persons have deposited money for having telephone connections; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide them with telephone connections during the year 1953?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes. The installation of the exchange was completed on 30th March, 1953.

(b) Yes, within the course of the next few days, I hope, unless they have been given already.

OVER-CROWDING ON THE ex-ASSAM RAILWAY

*1148. **Shri B. Y. Reddi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to his speech introducing the Railway Budget for 1953-54 and state:

(a) whether the *ad-hoc* Departmental Committee of senior Railway officers to study the travel conditions and passenger amenities on the ex-Assam Railway section of the North Eastern Railway have submitted their report;

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to lay a copy of the Report on the Table of the House;

(c) what action Government propose to take to ease the over-crowding in trains in that region; and

(d) how many extra trains Government propose to start in that region?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Not yet.

(b) The question of placing the report on the Table of the House will receive consideration after it has been received and considered.

(c) and (d). During the calendar year 1952, 14 new trains were introduced on the ex-Assam Railway portion of the North Eastern Railway and the runs of two existing trains were extended. The provision of a through service between Agra Fort and Amin-gaon by extending a train now running between Lucknow and Agra Fort is also under consideration.